

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-6 and 17 have been canceled, and claims 9, 14, 16, 18, 19-21 have been amended to place this application in condition for allowance. Currently, claims 7-16 and 18-21 are before the Examiner for consideration on their merits.

Applicants wish to acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 7, 8, 12, and 13, and the further indication of the allowable subject matter contained in claims 9-11 and 17. This amendment is being made in order to place this application in condition for allowance in light of this indication of allowable claims and subject matter.

In light of the indication of allowable subject matter for claim 17, claim 14 has been revised to include the limitations of claim 17. Thus, claims 14-16 and 18-21 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has been revised to reflect the Examiner's suggestions as outlined in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 14, 16, 18, and 19 have also been revised in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In this regard, claim 14 is revised to clarify the second recitation of the "means" and its association with the heater unit.

Claim 16 is revised to be dependent on claim 14 and claim the measuring out unit in place of the vibrating screens. Support for this amendment can be found on page 4, lines 25-31. This change removes the conflict between the screens and measuring-out unit noted in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is also contended that "measuring-out unit" is not indefinite when this term is read in light of the specification and that which is understood by one skilled in the art. The specification clearly describes the measuring out unit as one that measures out the powder in a particular pattern, and

describing such an apparatus as a measuring-out unit is not indefinite. Accordingly, the rejection in this regard should be withdrawn.

Claims 18 and 19 are revised to clarify the relationship between the medium and the front medium. The front medium is described on page 8, lines 28-32, and the changes to claims 18 and 19 remove any instances of indefiniteness, and the rejection should be withdrawn as applied to these two claims.

Claims 20 and 21 have been revised in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Lastly, the objection to the specification regarding the "Brief Description of the Drawing" is not understood since this heading is contained on page 5, line 17 of the specification. Clarification or removal of this objection is requested.

In summary, each of the objections noted in paragraph 4 have been addressed, the issues of indefiniteness raised in paragraph 6 have been overcome, allowable claim 17 has been incorporated into claim 14 to render claims 14-16 and 18-21 allowable, and the remaining claims rejected over the prior art have been canceled. Therefore, this application is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine this application and pass claims 7-16, and 18-21 onto issuance.

The Examiner is also requested to telephone the undersigned if any other issues still exist so that this patent application can be expeditiously allowed.

The above is a complete response to all issues raised in the outstanding Office Action of January 11, 2005.

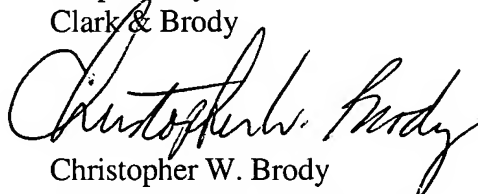
A petition for a three month extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) is hereby made. A check in the amount of \$510.00 is enclosed to cover the petition fee. Please

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charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including additional extension of times fees to deposit account number 50-1088 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Again, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Clark & Brody



Christopher W. Brody
Registration No. 33,613

Customer No. 22902
1090 Vermont Ave. NW
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 835-1753
Date: July 8, 2005